

Remarks

In the Office action mailed June 8, 2009 claims 1-35 were pending.

Claims 1-17 were allowed.

Claims 18, 19, 24-31 and 33-35 were rejected.

Claims 20-23 and 32 were objected to.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claims 1-17.

In this amendment claim 20, dependent on claim 18 (base claim) has been rewritten as amended claim 18 thereby incorporating the limitations of the base claim. Claim 20 was identified as allowable subject matter on page 7 of the Office action and so amended claim 18 should be allowable. Claims 21-23 should similarly be patentable.

Claim 32 was indicated to be patentable if rewritten to include its base claim. Claim 32 has been cancelled and rewritten as new claim 36. Claims 37-52 are copies of claims dependent on claim 18 and are believed to be patentable.

Rejected claims 19, 24-31 and 33-35 now depend (directly or indirectly) on amended claim 18 which incorporates allowed claim 20. The claims are repeated in dependency (directly or indirectly) on claim 36. These claims should be allowable as depending on allowed subject matter.

All subject matter of the present independent claims is believed to have been indicated as allowable. This RCE and amendment are intended to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants request reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

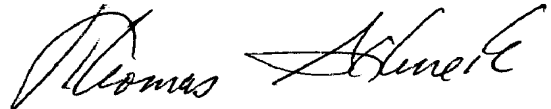
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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) on the date shown below.

Signed: Merle P. Garcia
Typed Name: Merle P. Garcia

Date: October 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas Schneck", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Schneck

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